

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-35. (Cancelled)

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 35, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:~~

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror;

said head comprising:

a molded thin external plastic shell;

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said shell;

and

a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

Claim 37. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 36, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 37, wherein the interior surface of ~~both said front and rear shells are~~ said shell is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 37, wherein said mount has a pivot assembly receiving

portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and
a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 36, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its the periphery of said diffuser.

Claim 41. (Previously Added) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:
a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and
a mirror,
said head comprising:

an external plastic shell;

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said shell;

and

a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount,

wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

Claim 42. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 41, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 43. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 42, wherein the interior surface of ~~both said front and rear shells are~~
said shell is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 44. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 42, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and
a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting
said body shell.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 41, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its the periphery of said diffuser.

Claim 46. (Previously Added) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:
a head;
a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and
a mirror;
said head comprising:

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a front molded thin external plastic shell;
a rear molded thin external plastic shell meeting said front shell at a joint; and
a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said front and rear shells.

Claim 47. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 46, wherein said joint is an overlapping joint.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 47, wherein said overlapping joint is formed from a projection, extending from the edge of one of the front or rear shells, received within a groove within the edge of the other one of said front or rear shells.

Claim 49. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 46, wherein said joint is a butt joint.

Claim 50. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 49, further comprising a hidden internal chamber formed between

edges of said front and rear shells for preventing foam from escaping to the exterior of said shells.

Claim 51. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 50, wherein at least one of said front and rear shells terminates in parallel double edges to provide a double butt joint against the other of said front and rear shells, thereby forming said hidden internal chamber.

Claim 52. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 48, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount,

wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

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Claim 53. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 52, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 54. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 53, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 55. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 54, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection port, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

Claim 56. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 55, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its periphery.

Claim 57. (Previously Added) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;
a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and
a mirror;
said head comprising:
a front thin external plastic shell;
a rear thin external plastic shell; and
a foam core, the foam anchoring and supporting the shell.

Claim 58. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 57, further comprising a porous foam gasket sandwiched between edges of said front and rear shells.

Claim 59. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 58, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount,

wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

Claim 60. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, wherein said housing is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 61. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 60, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 62. (Previously Added) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:
a molded thin external plastic body shell; and
a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

Claim 63. (Currently Amended) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser ~~reduces as its is reduced as~~ said diffuser extends away from said mount.

Claim 64. (Previously Added) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, comprising the steps of:

molding a first thin plastic component for use as a front shell;

molding a second thin plastic component for use as a rear shell;

positioning and retaining said first and second shells against each other in an edge-to-edge relationship so as to create an internal void; and

substantially filling said void with foam to form a rigid assembly bonded together by said foam.

Claim 65. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 64, wherein injection compression molding ~~to is~~ used to mold both of said front and rear thin plastic components.

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Claim 66. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 65, further comprising a sub-step of sandwiching a porous foam gasket between the edges of said first and second shells, whereby said gasket allows the escape of air but not foam from said void.

Claim 67. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 66, wherein said second thin plastic component includes an aperture for receiving a motor mechanism assembly, further comprising the step of positioning said motor mechanism assembly over said aperture and wherein said foam bonds said motor mechanism assembly in position.

Claim 68. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, ~~compressing comprising~~ the steps of:

molding a pre-form component;

blow molding said pre-form component into a component having the external shape of a said mirror housing;

substantially filling said blow molded component with foam to form a rigid assembly.

Claim 69. (Previously Added) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, comprising the steps of:

molding a first thin plastic component for use as a front shell;

gas assist injection molding a second thin plastic component for use as a rear shell;

positioning and retaining said first and second shells against each other in an edge-to-edge relationship so as to create an internal void; and

substantially filling said void with foam to form a rigid assembly bonded together by said foam.

Claim 70. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 69, wherein injection compression molding is used to mold both of said front and rear thin plastic components.

Claim 71. (New) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror;

said head comprising:

a front molded thin plastic shell;

a rear molded thin external plastic shell meeting said front shell at a butt joint;

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said front and rear shells; and

a hidden internal chamber formed between edges of said front and rear shells for preventing foam from escaping to the exterior of said shells.

Claim 72. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 71, wherein at least one of said front and rear shells terminates in parallel double edges to

provide a double butt joint against the other of said front and rear shells, thereby forming a hidden internal chamber.

Claim 73. (New) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:
a head;
a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and
a mirror;
said head comprising:
a front molded thin external plastic shell;
a rear molded thin external plastic shell meeting said front shell at an overlapping joint formed from a projection, extending from the edge of one of the front or rear shells, received within a groove within the edge of the other one of said front or rear shells;
a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said front and rear shells; and
a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

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Claim 74. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 73, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 75. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 74, wherein the internal surface of both said front and rear shells is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 76. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 75, wherein said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection port, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and
a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

Claim 77. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 76, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its periphery.

Claim 78. (New) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:
a head;
a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and
a mirror;
said head comprising:
a front thin external plastic shell;
a rear thin external plastic shell;
a foam core, the foam anchoring and supporting the shell;
and
a porous foam gasket sandwiched between edges of said front and rear shells.

Claim 79. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 78, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount,

wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

Claim 80. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 79, wherein said housing is pivotable with respect to said mount.

Claim 81. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 80, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells is rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

Claim 82. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 79, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

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Claim 83. (New) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 79, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces as it extends away from said mount.